

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

11/8/82
AH090

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ACTION ARA-00

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-10 CIAE-00
EA-10 DODE-00 H-01 10-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-03
L-03 PM-09 PA-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SPRS-01 /100 W

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R 081531Z NOV 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5595
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORVA

BUENOS AIRES 6357

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

EQ 12356: DECL: 11/5/89
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: MORE CONTROVERSY ABOUT DISAPPEARANCES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6297 (NOTAL)

1. (U) SUMMARY. ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE WEST GERMAN AND SPANISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE JOINED ITALY AND PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ALSO HAVE UNACCOUNTED DISAPPEARANCES FROM ARGENTINA'S DIRTY WAR PROVIDE A SOMBER COUNTERPART TO FRONT PAGE EUPHORIA ABOUT THE UNGA VOTE ON THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS SUPPORTING ARGENTINA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE DISCOVERY OF THE GRAVES AT THE GRAND BOURG CEMETERY AND THE RELEASE OF 300 NAMES OF DISAPPEARED ITALIANS (SEE REFTEL) APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A SHOCKING EFFECT. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASED ON NOVEMBER 4 A LIST OF 41 NAMES OF SPANIARDS WHO HAVE REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED DURING ARGENTINA'S DIRTY WAR. A WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT 43 GERMAN CITIZENS, 13 WERE DUAL NATIONALS, AND 28 WERE ARGENTINES OF GERMAN ORIGIN.

3. (U) ARGENTINE PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT GOI PREMIER, GIOVANNI SPADOLINI, AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON FREE ELECTIONS HARSHLY CRITICIZED ARGENTINA FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES. GOI AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA, CERGIO KOCIANSICH, IS QUOTED TO HAVE PUBLICLY AFFIRMED THAT THE GOA HAS "NEVER SATISFACTORILY REPLIED" TO ANY OF THE MANY OFFICIAL GOI NOTES ABOUT THE ITALIAN DISAPPEARANCES. WITHOUT COMMENT, THE ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER "LA NACION" NOTED THAT ITALY'S CHANGE FROM A YES VOTE TO AN ABSTENTION ON THE UNGA FALKLANDS/MALVINAS RESOLUTION WAS "ESPECIALLY SURPRISING", BUT PRIVATELY PEOPLE ARE SPECULATING THAT THE DISAPPEARANCES AFFAIR WAS A FACTOR IN THE GOI DECISION.

4. (U) ON NOVEMBER 5, THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD, IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY, PRINTED AN EXCLUSIVE STORY ABOUT TWO URUGUAYAN WOMEN, WHOSE DAUGHTERS WERE AMONG THOSE WHO DISAPPEARED IN THE DIRTY WAR. THE TWO WOMEN CLAIMED THAT 120 URUGUAYANS ALSO DISAPPEARED AND THEY CALLED FOR AN EXPLANATION FROM THE GOA.

5. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED BY JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR THAT THE GOJ IS AWARE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TEN JAPANESE (TWO JAPANESE CITIZENS AND 8 ETHNIC-JAPANESE ARGENTINE CITIZENS) DURING THE DIRTY WAR. THE GOJ HAS NOT RECEIVED A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE GOA TO TWO INQUIRIES.

6. ALTHOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN A MAJOR ISSUE IN ARGENTINA'S

FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR YEARS, THE INTEREST ABROAD HAS HERETOFORE BEEN CENTERED ON ENDING ABUSES SUCH AS THE DISAPPEARANCES IN THE MID-1970'S, RESTORING BASIC LIBERTIES, SECURING FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SO FORTH. NOW THAT THE INTERNAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO SECURING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR AN ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED. PUBLICITY ABOUT LONG-STANDING UNNARRED GRAVECITES, WHICH MAY CONTAIN THE BODIES OF DISAPPEARED PEOPLE, HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN AROUSING PUBLIC OPINION HERE AND ABROAD. IT APPEARS THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN ARGENTINA'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES. DOMESTICALLY ACCOUNTING FOR THE DISAPPEARED USUALLY TENDS TO INCLUDING PUNISHING THOSE RESPONSIBLE--A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ISSUE DURING THE TRANSITION FROM MILITARY TO ELECTED CIVILIAN RULE. SHLAUDEMAN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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